Another Project on Agricultural Human Resource Development (AHRD) Phase-I has been completed to upgrade the infrastructure and quality of agriculture education in four State Agricultural Universities. In Phase-II of the AHRD Project, all the State Agricultural Universities will be included.

(c) Does not arise.

Shifting farmers' focus to oilseeds cultivation

2772. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any strategy to shift famers' focus from cultivating foodgrains to oilseeds, as about 40 per cent of country's requirement is being imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therfor;

(d) whether Government have fixed higher targets for foodgrains exports in the current fiscal year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps mooted to achieve these targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) There is no specific scheme to shift farmers' focus from cultivating foodgrains to oilseeds. However, under Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP), assistance is given for various inputs like production and distribution of seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhizobium culture and PSB, micro nutrients etc. for increasing area coverage and production of oilseeds in various States.

(d) to (f) No targets for export of foodgrains have been fixed for the current fiscal year. However, the export of wheat and wheat products has been made free with effect from 5.3.2002. The condition of registration of export contract with APEDA for non-basmati rice

has been removed. Efforts are being made to export the maximum quantity of agricultural products including foodgrains.

Deep sea fishing policy

2773. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the new deep sea fishing policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when, it would be implemented;

(d) whether Fishery Survey of India is considering to map out new grounds for non-shrimp fishery resources; and

(e) the other measures to be adopted to give boost to the fishing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. Besides, the ongoing programmes for demersal fisheries resources survey and long lining survey for tuna with existing fleet, the Fishery Survey of India is in the process of acquiring new vessels for further diversifying their resources survey efforts.

(e) Strengthening of existing infrastructure for harvest and post harvest operations, creating new facilities, improving quality and food safety standards and human resource development in the fisheries sector are measures that may give boost to the fishing industry.